



Prairie Update

A publication of the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority

Volume 28 Summer 2006

Riparian Management Makes Business and Environmental Sense

John Van Eaton knows from experience that, while economics are what drives any agricultural business, the environmental impacts of how it is managed need to be considered as well.

"I don't consider myself an environmentalist. I'm someone who believes in the sustainability of the industry, and that just seems to go hand-in-hand with being conscious of the environment," says Van Eaton.

Van Eaton and his family run a mixed farming operation near Maryfield. A few years ago, they purchased a six-quarter parcel of land that included a pasture area with Stony Creek running directly through the centre of it.

"For years, the lower land along the creek was fenced, and they grazed that and they grain-farmed the higher land," says Van Eaton, noting that some areas of the pasture are dominated by woody plant species, while others are primarily grassed.

"There were certain areas, especially on the extreme north end, where the cattle liked to spend lots of time, and they had that area tramped right out. By mid-summer there would be virtually no grass left in that area."

Van Eaton began looking for ways to improve his pasture utilization. The

Saskatchewan Watershed Authority, through the Prairie Stewardship Program, was able to assist Van Eaton with installing approximately a half-mile of cross-fencing, which allows him to better control the areas that his cattle have access to.

"It makes it more convenient to move cattle through that pasture, and I can make them graze in that brushy part longer. There was all kinds of grass in the upland brushy parts that they didn't like to eat. They wanted to spend all their time along the creek. So this forces them to eat that upland grass, and lets you pick your timing to allow them in along the creek," says Van Eaton.

According to Van Eaton, the system has had an

impressive payoff with a minimal investment of both money and his time.

"We saw results even in the first year. It's been a couple of years now, and the recovery of those areas that were being overgrazed has just been remarkable. Even the former owner is astonished at the amount of grass there is there," says Van Eaton.

"The carrying capacity is up by probably 20 percent. And the grass is in better shape, the pastures are in better shape, and the riparian area is in better shape. So for a simple little project, the results have been amazing."

Today, Van Eaton runs between 50-55 head on the pasture at any given time, where previously he had been limited to around 40. He tries to keep the cattle out of the northern end of the pasture until late in the season to allow the plants to take advantage of the prime growing season through the spring and early summer.

Van Eaton also has plans to seed the remainder of the six-quarter parcel to grass, and erect more fencing to create additional paddocks. His intent is to have a total of ten paddocks on the parcel, with the paddocks not located adjacent to the creek serviced by off-site watering.

While Van Eaton readily admits that his first priority in the project was to maximize his economic returns from the pasture, he certainly appreciates the other benefits that have resulted.

"The honest truth is I didn't do it for riparian management. It just kind of turned out that that was a side-effect," laughs Van Eaton.

"But I think that attitudes have changed in agriculture. More people understand that what you do with your resource base directly affects what you can do with it next year, or its ability to provide you with an income next year."

Resource management is something that Van Eaton has gained a lot of experience with as chair of the Pipestone Creek Watershed Advisory Committee. This committee, together with the Antler River and Four Creeks Watershed Advisory Committee, recently completed the Lower Souris River Watershed Source Water Protection Plan. This document, the first of its kind to be completed in Saskatchewan, represents an action plan to protect source water in the Lower Souris River Watershed.

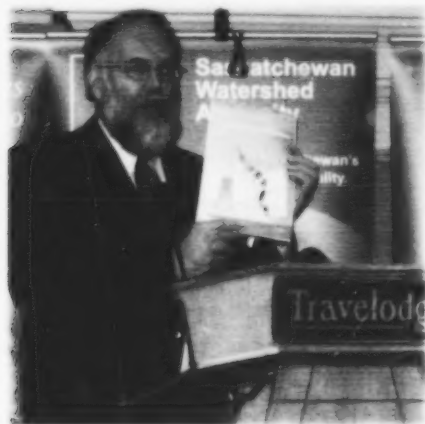


John Van Eaton

By optimizing his pasture use, John Van Eaton is protecting both his valuable riparian areas and the water quality of the Stony Creek. Riparian areas perform important environmental functions such as trapping sediment, filtering nutrients, producing more vegetation, slowing water flows, controlling erosion, stabilizing streambanks and recharging groundwater. When they are healthy, riparian areas provide numerous benefits to both the landowner and the downstream water users.

What's New . . .

Take a look at some of the upcoming events and new projects and programs available from the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority and our partner agencies . . .



New Funding Support for Source Water Protection

At a conference for watershed and aquifer planning advisory committee members this past April, Minister responsible for the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority John Nilson announced details of \$485,000 in new funding in Saskatchewan's 2006–2007 Budget for watershed protection activities. This new funding, as summarized in a release sent to all Saskatchewan media, includes:

- Up to \$25,000 for watersheds and aquifers with completed plans to assist with the salary, office and travel expenses associated with hiring a local co-ordinator to oversee implementation. A total of \$150,000 is available for this activity in 2006–2007;
- \$100,000 to increase the level of technical support on groundwater the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority can provide to the planning process, including hiring a hydrogeologist;
- \$155,000 for improved information to guide water management, including \$85,000 for land uses and water quality research, and \$70,000 for additional hydrometric stations to improve understanding of water flows; and
- \$80,000 for the ongoing protection of endangered Piping Plovers nesting along the shore of Lake Diefenbaker.

New Voices: Future Vision Workshop Held

The Saskatchewan Watershed Authority hosted "New Voices: Future Vision," a leadership development conference for environmental educators, on April 27th–29th, 2006 at the Arlington Beach Conference Centre. The

conference was attended by 30 educators from across the province, as well as numerous resource speakers from organizations such as Environment Canada,

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Saskatchewan Learning, the University of Regina, First Nations University of Canada, the Saskatchewan Forestry Association and the Saskatchewan Prairie Conservation Action Plan.



During the three-day conference, participants had the opportunity to learn about Saskatchewan watershed issues and initiatives, to brush up on their workshop facilitation skills with a special focus on the inclusion of Aboriginal cultural values, and to take part in key Project WET, Project WILD and supplementary activities, all while interacting with their peers in an informal setting. The conference also saw 15 new facilitators trained, and the debut of three exciting new Project WET supplements – Discover a Watershed, WOW! (Wonders of Wetlands) and Conserve Water.

The "New Voices: Future Vision" conference received support from the Canadian Wildlife Federation, the Canadian Water Resources Association's Saskatchewan Branch, and Saskatchewan Learning.



Partners FOR the Saskatchewan River Basin Launches "Click on Climate"

Click on Climate is an action-based program for children aged eight to thirteen. The program is designed to help children understand the causes and impacts of climate change, and what they

can do about it. The main component of the program is a field day, during which children get to take part in various fun and educational activities. There are activities for every season, and

while the activities are intended for groups of one leader and five children, the program can easily be adapted for larger groups. The program is a great fit for a Scout or Guide group, a class, a camp, a watershed group, a special event, or even just with family members.

For more information on Click on Climate, visit www.saskriverbasin.ca.

Saskatchewan Prairie Conservation Action Plan Celebrates Native Prairie Appreciation Week

Agriculture and Food Minister Mark Wartman and Environment Minister John Nilson jointly proclaimed June 18th - 24th as Native Prairie Appreciation Week. This special week provides an opportunity for the Saskatchewan public, especially ranchers, naturalists, hunters, educators and resource agency specialists, to celebrate the diverse values of native prairie.

In conjunction with this year's Native Prairie Appreciation Week, the Saskatchewan Prairie Conservation Action Plan (PCAP) held a Society for Range Management workshop and field tour, June 21 and 22. Titled "Discovering the Matador Grasslands," the event featured speakers, good food and a number of ranch tours.

The event also featured the popular native plant ID challenge, as well as instruction in Range Health Methodology that is being developed for Saskatchewan.

For more information on Native Prairie Appreciation Week, contact Lauren at (306) 352-0472.



Photo courtesy PCAP

National Wildlife Week Focuses on Canada's Watershed

The theme of this year's National Wildlife Week, celebrated April 9th to 15th, was "Watersheds . . . more than just water . . . explore yours!" Events were held across Canada to give people a chance to learn what watersheds are and why they are important. National Wildlife Week is a program of the Canadian Wildlife Federation, sponsored in partnership with numerous provincial, territorial and national wildlife agencies. It was officially established in 1949 by the *National Wildlife Week Act*, and is held each year during the week surrounding April 10th to observe the birthday of Jack Miner, one of the most prominent pioneers of wildlife conservation in Canada and the United States.

For more information on National Wildlife Week, visit www.cwf-fcf.org.

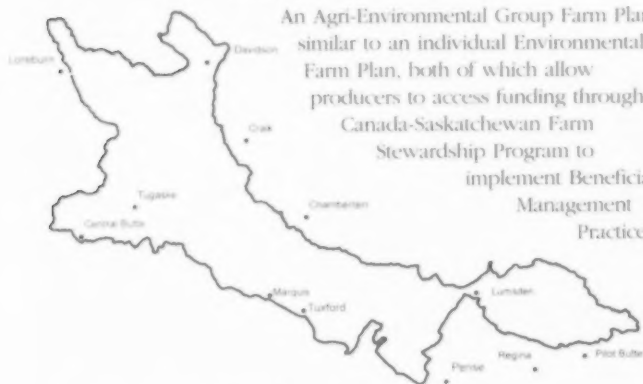


Photo courtesy Canadian Wildlife Federation

Two New Agri-Environmental Group Farm Plans

Producers in the Upper Qu'Appelle River watershed now have two more options to address agricultural activities that can impact water quality – the Lanigan/Manitou Agri-Environmental Group Farm Plan, and the Buffalo Pound-Qu'Appelle River Agri-Environmental Group Farm Plan.

An Agri-Environmental Group Farm Plan is similar to an individual Environmental Farm Plan, both of which allow producers to access funding through the Canada-Saskatchewan Farm Stewardship Program to implement Beneficial Management Practices.



Area covered by the Buffalo Pound-Qu'Appelle River Agri-Environmental Group Farm Plan.

Producers can access a maximum of \$30,000 through the Canada-Saskatchewan Farm Stewardship Program until March 31, 2008.

A Group Farm Plan focuses on a priority issue related to agriculture within the watershed, and on implementing two Beneficial Management Practices which address it. The establishment of projects that utilize these Beneficial Management Practices is then cost-shared between the producer and the program funding.

For information on the Lanigan/Manitou Group Farm Plan, contact Nancy Gray at (306) 946-3135. For more information on the Buffalo Pound-Qu'Appelle River Agri-Environmental Group Plan, contact Brett Gaube at (306) 529-1793.



Area covered by the Lanigan/Manitou Agri-Environmental Group Farm Plan.

The Lower Souris River Watershed Source Water Protection Plan

In the spring of 2003, the Government of Saskatchewan initiated a watershed planning process in the Lower Souris River Watershed, building on local stewardship activities that had already been underway in the Four Creeks Watershed since 1999, and in the Moosomin Reservoir/Pipestone Creek Watershed since 2002. The process focused on identifying threats to source water and providing strategies to address those threats.

Residents of the Lower Souris River Watershed, through the Lower Souris River Watershed Advisory Committees and with assistance from the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority and other agencies, have completed the first Source Water Protection Plan in Saskatchewan. This plan was reviewed by the public at a series of open houses held in late February and early March of this year, and is now moving toward implementation.



Photo courtesy Fisheries and Oceans Canada



Photo courtesy Ducks Unlimited Canada



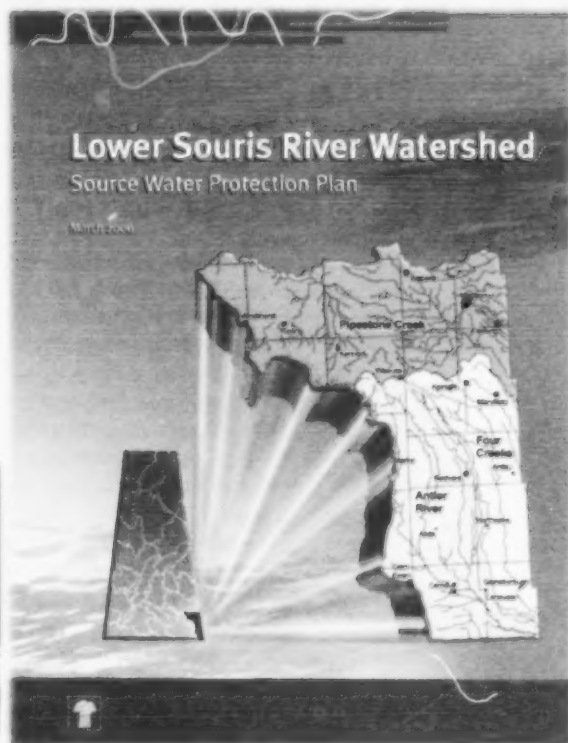
Copies of the Lower Souris River Watershed Source Water Protection Plan are available by contacting:

Saskatchewan Watershed Authority
2nd Floor
120 Smith Street East
Yorkton, Saskatchewan
S3N 3V3
Phone (306) 786-1490

For more information on watershed planning and implementation in the Lower Souris River Watershed, contact Jeff Olson at (306) 786-1364 or e-mail LowerSourisPlan@swa.ca.



Photo courtesy Ducks Unlimited Canada



Congratulations on a Job Well Done!!

The Lower Souris River Watershed Source Water Protection Plan would not be possible without the understanding, perseverance and dedication of the Watershed Advisory Committee members, nor without the invaluable advice and information provided by the Lower Souris River Watershed Technical Committee. The members of the committees are listed below:



Watershed Advisory Committees

Antler River Watershed Advisory Committee

Member	Organization
Warren Steeves (Chair)	R.M. of Argyle No. 1
Jim Burnett	Village of Glen Ewen
Rick Dancey	R.M. of Storthoaks No. 31
David Frecon	R.M. of Antler No. 61
Ross Madsen	R.M. of Antler No. 61
Wade McWhirter	R.M. of Reciprocity No. 32
Archie Miller	Village of Manor
Brian Miller	R.M. of Mount Pleasant No. 2
Valerie Olney	R.M. of Argyle No. 1
Edwin Rucks	R.M. of Enniskillen No. 3
Jeff Sanborn	Town of Redvers

Four Creeks Watershed Advisory Committee

Member	Organization
Ross Madsen (Chair)	R.M. of Antler No. 61
David Frecon	R.M. of Antler No. 61
George Howden	R.M. of Argyle No. 1
Jim Lorette	R.M. of Storthoaks No. 31
Lee McMillen	Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association
Bob Meredith	R.M. of Argyle No. 1
Elaine Morgan	R.M. of Storthoaks No. 31
Paul Poirer	R.M. of Storthoaks No. 31
Rick Poirer	R.M. of Antler No. 61
Dell Real	R.M. of Storthoaks No. 31
Don Taylor	Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities
John Thiessen	R.M. of Maryfield No. 91
Ian Thompson	Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association

Pipestone Creek Watershed Advisory Committee

Member	Organization
John Van Eaton (Chair)	R.M. of Maryfield No. 91
Ross Allary	Ochapawace First Nation
Jack Berglund	R.M. of Wawken No. 93
Ernest Briggs	R.M. of Willowdale No. 153
Nancy Campbell	Town of Wapella
Jim Cairns	R.M. of Silverwood No. 123
Chris Davidson	Moosomin Regional Park Board
Ron Dube	R.M. of Hazelwood No. 94
Glen Ekert	Holistic Ranchers
Al Ferguson	Moosomin Regional Park Board
Robert Fournier	Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation
Hal Garrett	R.M. of Martin No. 122
Dean Godon	Moosomin Regional Park Board
Rhonda Hall	R.M. of Walpole No. 92
James Hoff	R.M. of Chester No. 125
Wesley Kemp	R.M. of Kingsley No. 124
Kevin Kish	Town of Kipling
Terry Latham	Wawota Wildlife Federation
Marshall McLeod	R.M. of Moosomin No. 121
Elmer Molnar	Village of Kennedy
Arthur Murray	Chester Conservation and Development Area Authority
Mervin Schmidt	R.M. of Elcapo No. 154
Norm Schmidt	Moosomin Cottage Owners
Terry Sheppard	Rocanville Fish and Wildlife
Rob Stolz	Saskatchewan Environment
Denise Swallow	Village of Windthorst
Angus Turpie Jr.	Moosomin Conservation and Development Area Authority

Lower Souris River Watershed Technical Committee

Member	Organization
Kent M. Barrett	Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
Doug Brook	Ducks Unlimited Canada
Glen Campbell	West Souris River Conservation District
Sheldon Clarke	Government Relations - Community Planning
Lars DePauw	Penn West Petroleum Ltd.
Dwayne Donald	Ducks Unlimited Canada
John Fahlman	Saskatchewan Watershed Authority
Terry Hanley	Saskatchewan Watershed Authority
Lorne Klein	Saskatchewan Agriculture and Food
Brian Mathieson	Saskatchewan Industry and Resources
Allan McCutcheon	Saskatchewan Environment
Maureen McKegney-Clay	Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada - Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration
Clint Molde	Saskatchewan Watershed Authority
Bart Oegema	Saskatchewan Watershed Authority
Kevin O'Neill	Saskatchewan Watershed Authority
Kathleen Rispier	Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region
Girma Sahu	Environment Canada
Darlene Sakires	Canadian Natural Resources Ltd.
Etienne Soulodre	Saskatchewan Watershed Authority
Phil Weiss	Manitoba Water Stewardship
Rick West	Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Brent Wilson	Saskatchewan Environment
Jim Yarotsky	Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

Lower Souris River Watershed Planning Team

Member	Organization
Jeff Olson	Saskatchewan Watershed Authority
Collin McGuire	Saskatchewan Watershed Authority

Student Team Impresses at International Gathering

Beki Gummesson and Nadia Mori, two members of a student team from the University of Saskatchewan, recently attended the Society for Range Management's 59th Annual Meeting in Vancouver.

Aside from having the opportunity to mix with range management professionals and listen to speakers from all across North America, the team was also there to take part in a series of skill development exercises. One of these exercises was the Undergraduate Range Management Exam. The exam focused on range ecology, wildlife management and range restoration, and consisted of 125 multiple-choice and three long-answer questions, all of which had to be completed in the span of two hours.

"It was one of the tougher exams I've ever written, that's for sure," laughs Gummesson.

Each member of the team – Beki Gummesson, Nadia Mori, Adrienne Worley, Shannon Poppy, Denise Benfield and Holly White – wrote the exam on their own. Once each exam was graded, the teams were awarded a score based on their three highest individual marks.

The University of Saskatchewan Rangelands Team excelled in the Undergraduate Range Management Exam, finishing with the third-highest score out of 18 teams. Team member Nadia Mori did exceptionally well, recording the second-highest mark out of the more than 130 students who took the exam.

"That was pretty exciting. It was out of the blue – I honestly did not expect to do that well," says Mori.

Mori also took part in the Plant Identification Exam, which involved visually identifying 100 plant species from all over North America and being able to provide the correct Latin name for the genus, specific epithet and family for each. Mori placed 39th out of 95 students.

Finally, Mori and Gummesson, along with teammates Adrienne Worley, Shannon Poppy and Holly White, each presented the undergraduate thesis papers they had written for their university programs during a special session of the annual meeting. Students were given 12 minutes to make their presentations, and then fielded questions from the audience.

Both Gummesson and Mori felt that the presentation was a great way to prepare for finalizing their theses.

"It came in very handy for those of us who were writing our undergraduate thesis at that point," says Mori.

"Just to get that extra practice, going up there and doing some speaking. I think that's always a good experience to have in your pocket."

Gummesson and Mori also agreed that being at the meeting was a rewarding experience.

"Even if we wouldn't have done so well, it was really worth it just to go there and to meet so many people involved in range management," says Mori.

"It definitely enhances your education, and teaches you more practical stuff than you'll learn at school," says Gummesson, who also attended the previous SRM Annual Meeting held in Salt Lake City with the U of S Rangelands Team.

"I find you have a lot broader knowledge about something you might have just talked about in school. Like, in fourth year we might talk about leafy spurge invasion, but we might just brush on the subject. Whereas you've covered it quite a bit at the conferences beforehand, and you have a pretty good understanding of it before you even get into it."

The University of Saskatchewan Rangelands Team is supported by Ducks Unlimited Canada, the Saskatchewan Institute of Agrologists, the University of Saskatchewan's President Fund, the College of Agriculture Education Enhancement Grant, the Department of Plant Sciences, the Department of Animal and Poultry Sciences and the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority.



The University of Saskatchewan Rangelands Team at the Society for Range Management's 59th Annual Meeting in Vancouver.

High School Student Competes in Youth Forum

A Grade 12 student from southwest Saskatchewan made an outstanding presentation to the Society for Range Management's High School Youth Forum, part of the Society's 59th Annual Meeting.

"It was an amazing experience," says Sarah Anderson, who lives on her family's farm near Septre. "I enjoyed every minute of it."

Anderson first heard about the High School Youth Forum through a friend who had been selected to attend the event the previous year. The forum is held in conjunction with the Society's Annual Meeting to give students from across the continent an opportunity to learn about rangelands, ecosystems, and the Society itself.

Each chapter of the Society for Range Management can select a representative to take part in the forum, which consists of a short PowerPoint presentation on a specific range management topic followed by a question-and-answer period. Anderson submitted an excellent paper to the Prairie Parkland Chapter of the Society's Northern Great Plains Section, and was chosen to represent them at the 2006 meeting in Vancouver.

For the topic of her paper, Anderson elected to write about the relationship between oil and gas development and native rangeland conservation in the Great Sandhills area.

"I live really close to the Great Sandhills, and I thought it was a timely topic with the oil and gas boom right now. And with our disappearing rangelands, I thought it tied in really well. It was something that I was familiar with," says Anderson.

Anderson says that, while presenting to a large group of professionals was something of a new experience, it was without question a positive one.

"I had been involved in public speaking, but hadn't done an actual presentation in a conference-type atmosphere. But I really enjoyed it," says Anderson.

This year's Youth Forum featured a total of 26 delegates, most of whom were drawn from chapters in the United States. Anderson's presentation was ranked fifth overall by the judges of the competition.

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High School Student Competes in Youth Forum (Cont.)

Anderson was able to attend the meeting thanks to support from both the Prairie Parkland Chapter and the Northern Great Plains Section of the Society for Range Management, Ducks Unlimited Canada, and the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority.

Following this impressive showing, Anderson was also selected to attend the 2006 Canada-Wide Science Fair held in Saguenay, Québec, from May 13th-21st. Hosted by the Youth Science Foundation Canada each May, the Canada-Wide Science Fair is the national championships of the National Science Fair Program.

To be invited, a student must qualify through one of the 100 affiliated regional science fairs across the country. Anderson was selected through a regional science fair hosted at the Leader Composite School.

"I just kind of expanded the project and did actual in-field research on the development of trails to see how much impact a single trail has, and how that's expanded exponentially with the amount of development we have," says Anderson.

As the basis of her research, Anderson designed her own range assessment technique. She first selected a number of trails in the area that featured different orientations, ages, uses, and soil types. She next made observations at different intervals of the trail's length on the native and invasive grass species present at points 1 metre, 5 metres and 10 metres beside the trail.

These observations were then compared to ones made at a control point 50 metres away from the trail. This allowed Anderson to compare trends in areas where different human activities had encroached on the rangeland.

After her upcoming high school graduation, Anderson will be heading to the University of Saskatchewan this fall to attend their College of Agriculture, where she intends to major in Animal Science and minor in Rangeland Management.

The Prairie Parkland Chapter will be selecting another representative for next year's High School Youth Forum, to be held at the Society for Range Management's 60th Annual Meeting in Reno-Sparks, Nevada. Interested students are encouraged to watch future editions of the *Prairie Update* for more details, or to talk to their school principal in the fall.

Recognition for The Stewards of Moosomin Reservoir

A group of local lake stewards have been recognized for their work at the Moosomin Reservoir.

The first annual Stewardship Recognition Award was given to The Stewards of Moosomin Reservoir by the Pipestone Watershed Stewardship Committee at a recent conference held in Regina.

The committee is part of a larger Pipestone Creek Watershed Advisory Committee who, along with two other groups – the Antler River and the Four Creeks Watershed Advisory Committees – have developed a Source Water Protection Plan for the Lower Souris River Watershed.

The Stewards of Moosomin Reservoir have been monitoring the water quality of the reservoir for about eight years now. At that time, a few cottage owners concerned about lake water quality contacted the provincial government to discuss forming a Moosomin Reservoir stewardship group.

Norm Schmidt is one of the founding members, along with his wife Maxine, Al Ferguson and Dean and Eileen Godon. Stewardship group volunteers support water quality testing by providing local resources to assist the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority. The Authority is responsible for the protection and restoration of the province's water sources, and provides the monitoring program for the purpose of tracking changes in water quality over time and supporting management decisions with respect to the health of the watershed and reservoir.

"What we have been concentrating on is water quality testing," says Schmidt. "One member of our group always goes with Kevin [O'Neill] when he does his sampling, and provides a boat."

Kevin O'Neill is a Water Quality Services technologist from the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority's Weyburn office. The samples he collects are tested for various factors which enables the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority to rate the lake's health using a standard Water Quality Index. The stewardship group says they would like the Water Quality Index rating for Moosomin Reservoir to improve from consistently "fair" to consistently "good" within the next 10 years.

The Lower Souris River Watershed Source Water Protection Plan recommends that water quality monitoring continue in the watershed, particularly at the Moosomin Reservoir. The group also wants to determine the cause of the water quality deterioration and find out what types of activities can degrade it.

"We've been keeping a close eye on water quality ... we're going to keep doing this for a long time. We also try to make sure that cottage owners stay in line with sewage disposal and septic tanks, and the owners are pretty good at looking after things here." There are about 100 cottage owners at the reservoir, says Schmidt.

As for the award? Schmidt says modestly, "It's very nice and we're going to put it up in the [Moosomin Regional] Park Store. I think that's a good place for it since it wasn't just me that started the stewardship group; the award is for everyone involved."



John Van Eaton (right) of the Pipestone Creek Watershed Advisory Committee presents the Stewardship Recognition Award to Dean Godon of The Stewards of Moosomin Reservoir.

Hello Voluntary Stewards!

Thank you for taking the time to read the Summer 2006 edition of the *Prairie Update*! As always, we hope you have enjoyed the articles included in this newsletter, and we welcome any comments you have. And of course, our sincere thanks go to those who shared their stories with us in these pages.

You can find more information on the Prairie Stewardship Program in back issues of this newsletter. These issues, as well as interactive maps featuring other stewardship project demonstration sites, can be viewed on our Web site at www.swa.ca.

*Angela Bethune
Ryan Lorge*

Coming Events

For more information please contact the following staff members in the office nearest you:

North Battleford

Jeremy Brown at 446-7460

Regina

Etienne Soulodre at 787-0661

Swift Current

Bob Springer at 778-8301

Krista Connick at 778-8280

Julie MacKenzie at 774-4543

Yorkton

Jason Puckett at 786-5845



Our Gracious Supporters

- Canadian Wildlife Service
- Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada
- Ducks Unlimited Canada
- Environment Canada through Eco-ACTION
- Government of Canada Habitat Stewardship Program for Species at Risk
- National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (U.S.)
 - Native Plant Society of Saskatchewan
 - Nature Conservancy of Canada
 - Nature Saskatchewan
- Nebraska Game and Parks Commission
 - Nevada Department of Wildlife
- North American Wetlands Conservation Council
 - Prairie Conservation Action Plan
 - Saskatchewan Agriculture and Food
- Saskatchewan Environment through the Fish and Wildlife Development Fund
 - SaskPower
 - SaskPower - Shand Greenhouse
 - Wildlife Habitat Canada
- Wyoming Game and Fish Department

Funding Available for Seeding Projects

Nature Saskatchewan and Saskatchewan Watershed Authority (SWA) are offering a pasture expansion program to improve habitat for Burrowing Owls, Loggerhead Shrikes, and other grassland species. Habitat Enhancement can take place through reseeding cultivated land to pasture, fencing, shrub planting, and water development.



Sketch by P. Geraghty

Priority will be given to:

- areas nearby to pastures that have reported Burrowing Owls in the last 18 years
- areas nearby to recent (past 3 years) Loggerhead Shrike nests
- all areas should be close to existing pasture (tame or native)



Sketch courtesy SWA

The sowing mix **must exclude** smooth brome grass, crested wheat grass, quack grass, Kentucky bluegrass, timothy, reed canary grass, and sweet clover; alfalfa is limited to 10% of the mix. Assistance is subject to available funds and landowner participation or contribution.

For more information or to apply, contact **Andrea Perras**
at Nature Saskatchewan toll free: **1-800-667-4668**

Share Your Ideas!

If you have comments or ideas about this newsletter, please contact Angela Bethune at 787-8043 or e-mail: angela.bethune@swa.ca or Ryan Lorge at 787-6958 or e-mail: ryan.lorge@swa.ca.

For specific information about the Prairie Stewardship Program, please contact Jennifer Lohmeyer at 787-8707 or e-mail: jennifer.lohmeyer@swa.ca.

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